

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 W

----- 117430

O 051730Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4317

USUN NEW YORK 0073

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH

SUBJECT: GOB EFFORTS TO OBTAIN UN RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING ASSAD SHOMAN CALLED AT CONGEN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (SEPT 4) AND INFORMED ME THAT GOB HAD DECIDED TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN NEW YORK HEADED BY HIMSELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A MAJOR EFFORT TO GET UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE.

2. SHOMAN SAID HE WAS COUNTING ON HELP FROM UN DELEGATIONS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES WITH WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES HE AND ROGERS HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN LIMA. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED JAMAICA AND GUAYANA ADDING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BY EXPLAINING CASE FOR BELIZE INDEPENDENCE TO OTHER UN DELEGATIONS HE COULD GET SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION.

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3. AS FOR THE PRECISE NATURE OF RESOLUTION, HE SAID THIS WOULD

DEPEND ON WHAT HE COULD GET ADOPTED AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW HIM TO ADJUST LANGUAGE AS NECESSARY TO GET VOTES REQUIRED.

4. WHEN QUESTIONED IN REGARD TO EFFECT GOB EFFORTS IN NEW YORK MIGHT HAVE ON CHANCES OF OBTAINING A SOLUTION VIA UK-GOG TALKS SHOMAN INDICATED HE THOUGHT POSITIONS OF PARTIES WERE NOW IRRECONCILABLE. HE REGARDED THE IRE OF THE GUATEMALAN REPRESENTATIVES IN LIMA AT NOT BEING ADMITTED AS OFFICIAL OBSERVERS AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN LIMA AS A MEASURE OF THE SUCCESS OF GOG EFFORT THERE AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED SIMILAR GOG REACTION TO GOB EFFORTS IN NEW YORK WAS INEVITABLE. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER THAT HE VIEWED GUATEMALAN DISCOMFITURE WITH RELISH RATHER THAN WITH APPREHENSION. SHOMAN'S NEW YORK MISSION HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, BUT SHOMAN THOUGHT IT WOULD BE OVER WEEKEND. HE AND A CIVIL SERVICE ASSISTANT ARE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK TOMORROW.

5. COMMENT. RETURNING TO BELIZE AFTER AN ABSENCE OF THREE WEEKS I FIND EXTENT OF LOCAL INTEREST IN UK-GUATEMALA DISPUTE HAS INTENSIFIED CONSIDERABLY. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAS HAD CONTINUOUS FRONT PAGE TREATMENT AND BELIZE RADIO IS DEVOTING MAJOR ATTENTION TO INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS. THIS MORNING'S BROADCAST FEATURED TAPED DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT BY ROGERS AND SHOMAN AND REFLECTED SAME EUPHORIC VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS - ESPECIALLY LIMA CONFERENCE - WHICH SHOMAN HAD EXPRESSED IN HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH ME. PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THIS MORNING'S DISCUSSION WAS ANTICIPATED U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED INTENSIFICATION OF GOB INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS. BOTH ROGERS AND SHOMAN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT AS PRESSURE OF COMING EVENTS INCREASES, U.S. WILL FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN NEUTRAL AND ALOOF TO BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE ASPIRATIONS. INCIDENTALLY, IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION SHOMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN LISTENING TO VOA COVERAGE OF LIMA CONFERENCE AND HAD BEEN SURPRISED THAT ALTHOUGH ATTENTION TO OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS FALKLAND ISLANDS PROBLEMS, THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION OF BELIZE DISPUTE AND HE WONDERED WHY THIS "HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED." I ASSURED HIM WE WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUPPRESSING NEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH I HAD NOT HEARD THE VOA BROADCAST I HAD RECENTLY SEEN SEVERAL ARTICLES ON THE BELIZE INDEPENDENCE QUESTION IN THE U.S. PRESS.

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